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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/992,454

11/06/2001

Sven Ake Sjostam

MISI 8116US

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05/28/2003

POLSTER, LIEDER, WOODRUFF & LUCCHESI
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EXAMINER

MATHEW, FENN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3764

DATE MAILED: 05/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,454

Applicant(s)

SJOSTAM, SVEN AKE

Examiner

Fenn Mathew

Art Unit

3764

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1 and 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mantooth (U.S. Patent No. 6,503,174). Referring to claim 1, Mantooth discloses a post (20, 22) to which a play unit (12) is mounted, and a connector (18) for mounting the play unit to the post, the play unit including a mounting shaft (13) at an end of the play unit, the connector comprising rubber bushings which surrounds the play unit mounting shaft, the connector inherently enabling the play unit to move to a certain degree with a limited dampened swinging movement.
3. Referring to claim 6, Mantooth discloses the connector including an outer shell (40), with the bushing being contained in the shell (fig. 4).
4. Referring to claim 7, Mantooth discloses the connector including an inner tube (38a) being received within the bushing, the inner tube receiving the mounting shaft of the play unit.
5. Referring to claim 8, Mantooth discloses the device wherein the bushing comprises discrete bushing elements (44) (see fig. 4) spaced about the shell.

6. Referring to claim 9, Mantooth discloses a device comprising a play unit, the play unit including a mounting shaft (13) at an end, a post (20, 22) to which the play unit is mounted, and a connector (18) for mounting the play unit to the post, the connector including an outer shell (38a) and a bushing (44) within the shell the bushing surrounding the mounting shaft of the play unit, the connector enabling the play unit to move with a limited dampening swinging movement (inherently due to properties of rubber bushing, shaft will swing to a degree).
7. Referring to claim 10, Mantooth discloses the device wherein the connector includes an inner tube (38b), the inner tube being received within the bushing, the inner tube receiving the mounting shaft of the play unit.
8. Referring to claim 11, Mantooth discloses the bushing comprising discrete bushing elements spaced about the shell.
9. Referring to claim 12, Mantooth discloses the connector mounted within the post. (Inner tube is inside post).
10. Referring to claim 13, Mantooth discloses the connector mounted outside the post (outer tube is mounted outside the post).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mantooth alone. Referring to claims 2-5, Mantooth discloses the claimed invention including play units with a series of loops (handholds) and a member inside (portion of longitudinal bar). Mantooth does disclose the exact shapes of the play units. However, the features of different shapes are considered matters of simple design choice within the level of the skilled artisan, as applicant has failed to establish criticality and has provided no stated advantage nor specific purpose for the claimed shape, and the configuration of Mantooth would perform equally well, absent any unexpected or undesired results.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Huberman	U.S. Patent No. 5,330,400
Vatterot	U.S. Patent No. 5,118,099
Berglund et al.	U.S. Patent No. 6,475,117
Briggs	U.S. Patent No. 5,967,901

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15. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fenn Mathew whose telephone number is (703) 305-2846. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9302 for regular communications and (703) 872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

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May 15, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Lucchesi", written in a cursive style.

NICHOLAS D. LUCCHESI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700